

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider this response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, placing claims 17-21, 24, 25, and 28 in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: May 24, 2004

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